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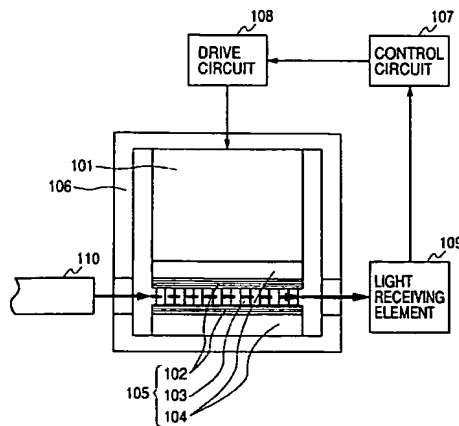
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(54) Title: **METHOD OF CONTROLLING OPTICAL CHARACTERISTIC OF OPTICAL ELEMENT AND OPTICAL DEVICE**



(57) Abstract: An optical element is formed by using a plurality of pillar-shaped members arranged periodically and a pair of support members arranged perpendicularly relative to the direction of arrangement of the pillar-shaped members so as to sandwich the pillar-shaped members. The optical element showing a periodic structure of periodic distribution of refractive index. An optical characteristic of the optical element is modulated by applying force to the optical element in a direction perpendicular to the direction of arrangement of the pillar-shaped members and changing the diameter of the pillar-shaped members.

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